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TCS 8046/64
G-MB - 703/64
4 September 1964
Copy No. 1

Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Resources Division, ORR
ATTENTION: [REDACTED] Food and Agriculture 25X1A
THRU: Chief, RG/RB/CGS
FROM: Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)
SUBJECT: Dust Storms and Wind Erosion
REFERENCE: Requirement No. C-RR4-81,706 (Project No. C 1335-64)

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1. In response to Requirement No. C-RR4-81,706 (C 1335-64) requesting a survey of the "New Lands Area" of the USSR to determine the extent of wind erosion and dust storms in the growing season of 1964, a study has been made of pertinent coverage from [REDACTED]

2. The survey is incomplete because of gaps in areal coverage and the high percentage of cloud cover. However, scattered glimpses of all portions of the "New Lands Area" made it possible to draw these conclusions.

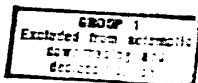
a. Evidence of movement of dirt from open fields and scars where highways are under construction is no more pronounced than in past years, except for the Pavlodar-Kulunda Region, where plowed fields have appeared to be dry and barren throughout the summer.

b. The water level of visible lakes has remained fairly constant.

c. The quality of vegetable growth is not easily assessable because of clouds and haze, but on the most recent coverage the harvest patterns of both grain and hay appear normal in comparison with those of past years, except in the Pavlodar-Kulunda Region.

3. The photographs of dust being lifted by wind from the open fields in the Pavlodar-Kulunda Region [REDACTED] are of interest for several reasons.

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a. These are the first photographs of the area on which dirt can be seen in process of being lifted directly from the fields. The reason for lack of this identification from earlier photography may be due partly to the lesser quality of the earlier film, but it may also be true that this is the first time a recognizable dust storm has been caught in action.

b. The photography clearly demonstrates that the dry condition of the top soil is extensive rather than strictly localized, and that all "open" or plowed surfaces in the region are affected. Whether these fields had been planted to crops before the storm cannot be determined, but later coverage indicates that vegetal cover in the affected area is generally poor or absent, contrasting markedly from the color of the Irtysh floodplain.

c. Strip farming, visible on earlier cover as well as the present, is oriented across the direction of prevailing westerly winds, but in the case of the photographed storm the wind was from a southerly direction and therefore swept freely across long open surfaces in strip-farmed fields as well as in broader ones.

d. From reports on 1964 weather conditions in the "New Lands Area", it appears that the drier conditions in the Pavlodar oblast are to be expected.

4. Forwarded for your retention are 12 photographs (CIA/PID/GMB/P-2687/64 thru P-2698/64, copy 1), with explanatory titles.

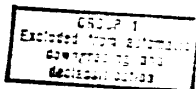
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5. The photo analysis on this project was performed by [REDACTED] CIA/PID/GMB (NPIC), who may be contacted on ext. 2543 for any additional information.

6. This memo with enclosures completes the referenced requirement.

ENCLOSURES:
12 Photographs

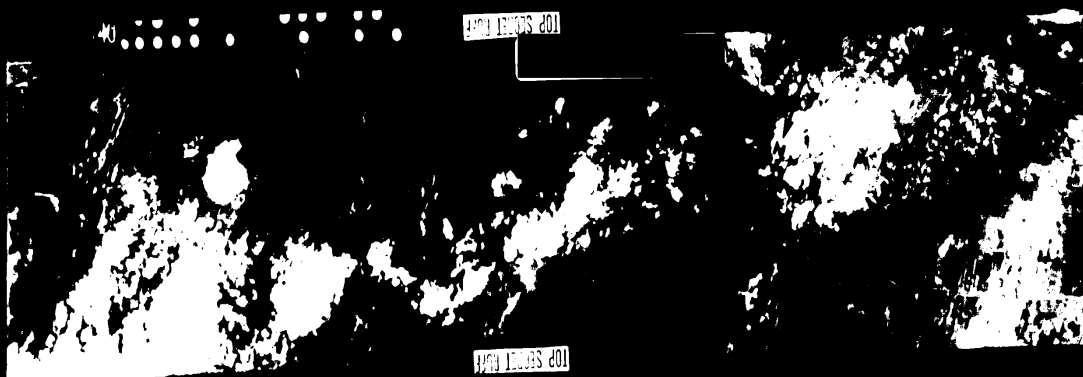
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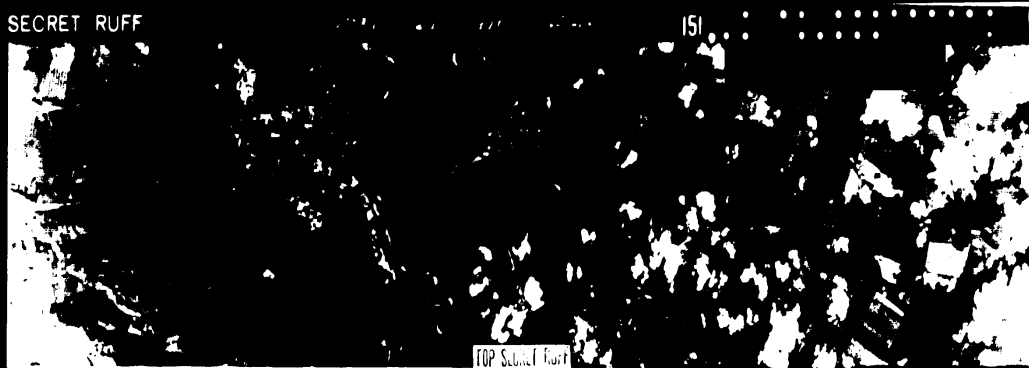
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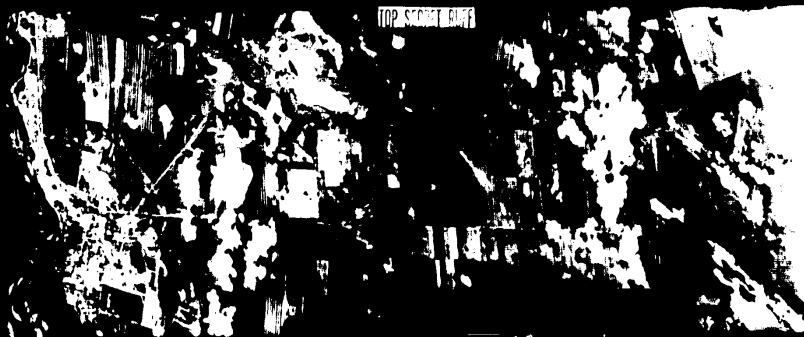


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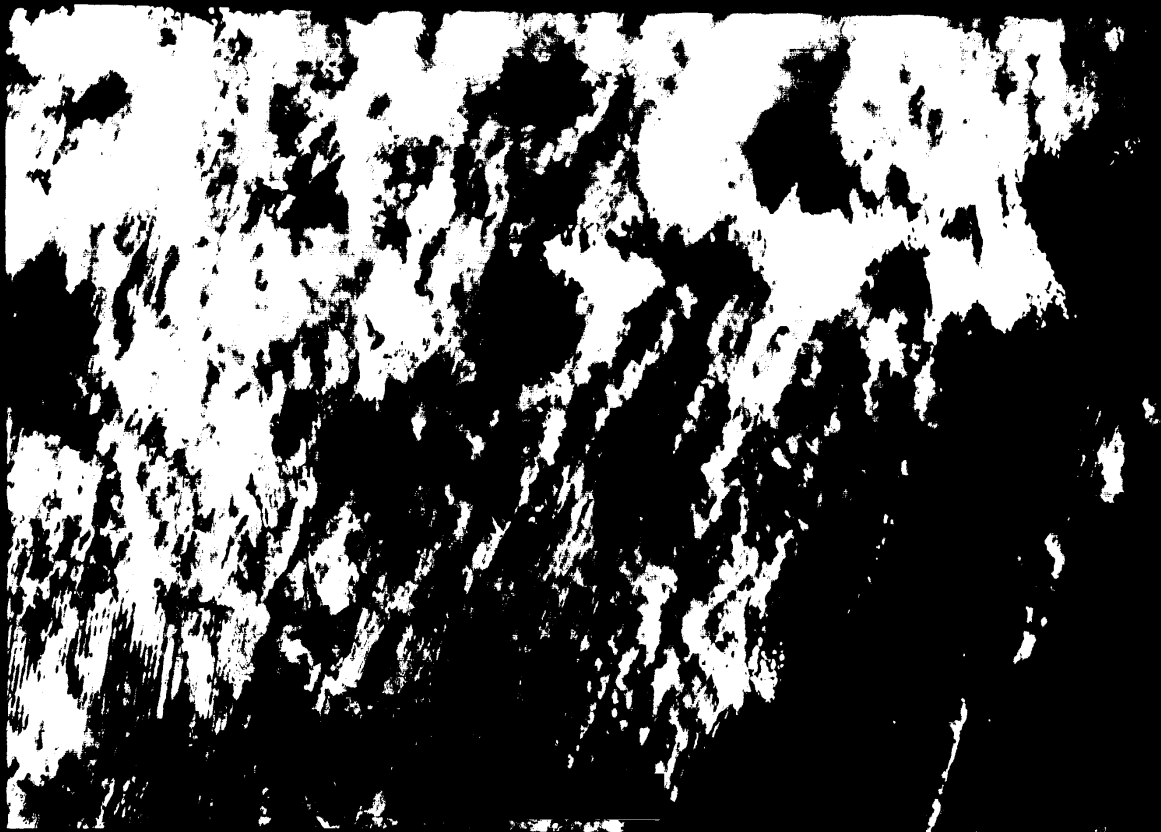
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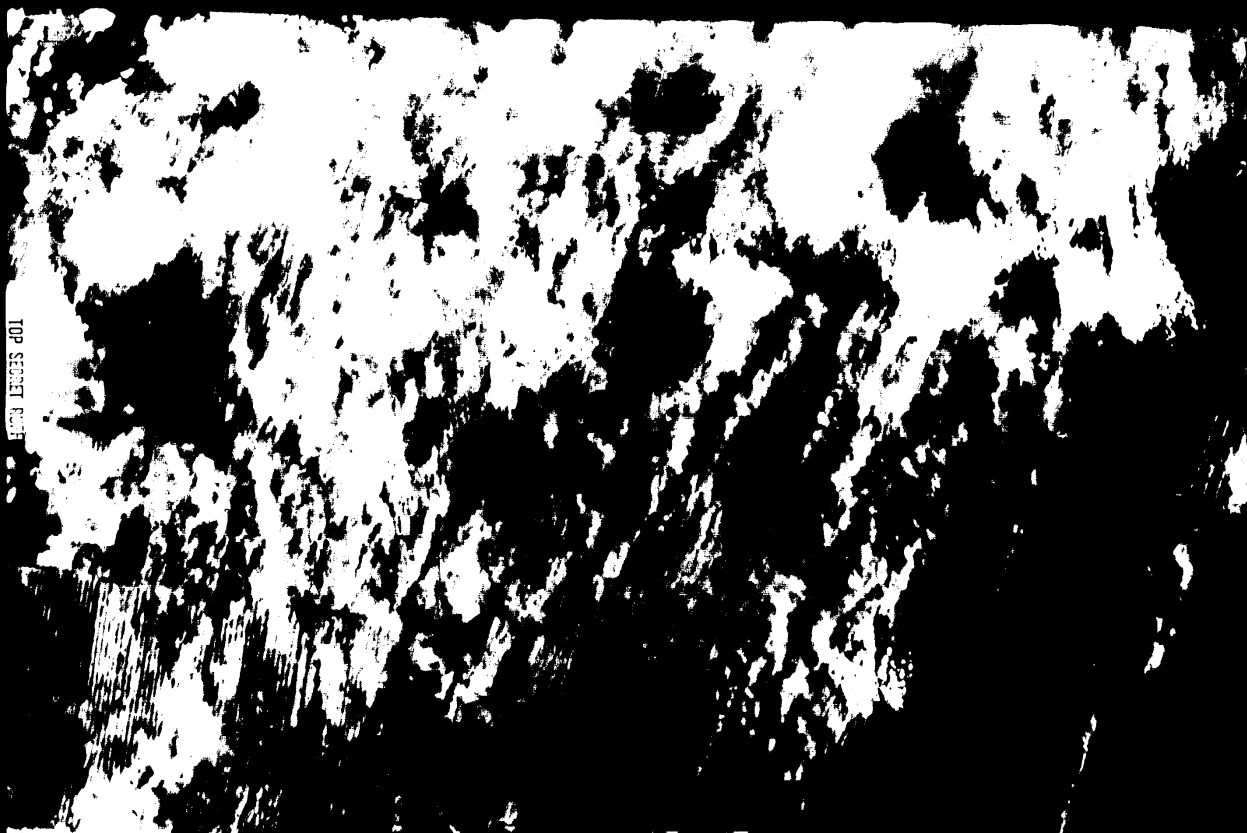


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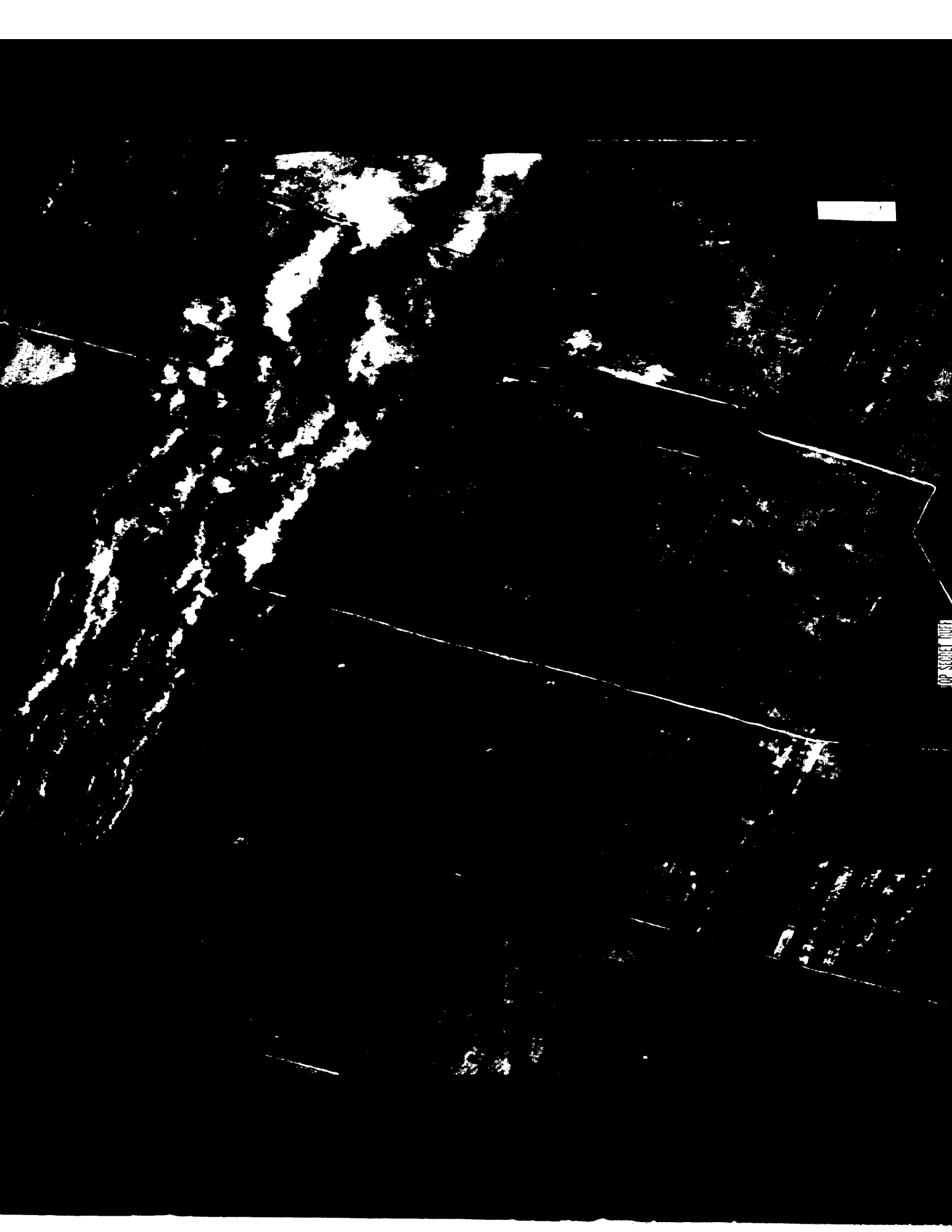
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